(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make these Information Boards functional?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Train Information Boards at a few stations have become defective after their installation due to failure of critical components, hardware defect etc. At a couple of stations, these Boards are not functional for want of operators.

(c) The Information Boards are checked regularly to monitor their functioning and suitable remedial measures taken to restore them and all efforts are underway to fill up the vacant posts of Operators.

AIR Station at Asansol

2435. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position regarding setting up of AIR station at Asansol;

(b) the reasons for the delay to start this station;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed to open this station;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (e) The AIR Station at Asansol with 6 KW FM Transmitter Relay Centre is technically ready and would be commissioned by August, 1997.

District Advisory Committees in Kerala

2436. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of district telephone advisory committees in Kerala units have not been reconstituted even after the expiry of the period;

(b) if so, the names thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be reconstituted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) All the district Telephone Advisory Committees and the Circle Telephone Advisory Committee in the Kerala Telecom. Circle have already been reconstituted.

(c) Does not arise.

Railway Divisional Hospital at Petta

2437. SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways Divisional Hospital at Petta in Thiruvananthapuram is in a state of neglect and its working leaves much to be done; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide permanent specialist Doctors, other essential staff, medicines and other facilities for the efficient functioning of the hospital?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is a 50 bedded well equipped Divisional Hosptial having a sanctioned strength of 10 doctors and other requisite para-medical staff at Petta in Thiruvananthapuram. Doctors having general as well as specialist qualifications are available and an anaesthetist is likely to be posted shortly. Apart from this Honorary Consultants in the field of Surgery, Paediatrics, Ophthalmology and Gynaecology are also available at this Hospital. There is no paucity of essential medicines.

Purchasing of Flesible Hose Pipes

2438. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are purchasing flesible hose pipes centrally or locally ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the annually requirements of this item alongwith the number of flesible hose pipes producing units in the country;

(d) whether all the units are producing this as per RDSO specification;

(e) if so, whether the Government are procuring this item from all the producing units; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (f) Indian Railways procure Vacuum/Air Brake Hose Pipes from RDSO approved sources through normal tendering procedure. The procurement is as per RDSO's specification and is done directly by the Zonal Railways. Another item, Flexible Hose Pipes for cleaning of the coaches etc. are also purchased by the Zonal Railways. This is a common user item, Flexible Hose Pipes for cleaning of the coaches etc. are also purchased by the Zonal Railways. This is a common user item, procured to IS specification.